

Racial Change In Germantown Third Highest In Philadelphia

A recent report compiled by the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations disclose that Germantown ranks third with respect to the increase of non-whites in city areas during the period covering 1950-1958.

With the criteria being Germantown's 22nd ward—which has the highest concentration of Negroes—the area follows West Philadelphia and North Philadelphia Central in the ratio of change.

The best available estimate places Germantown's non-white population at something in excess of 25,000. Boundaries of the 22nd ward are Chelton ave., to Mt. Pleasant, and from Wissahickon ave. to the Chestnut Hill branch of the Reading Railroad.

BASED ON REGISTRATION

Figures for the survey were taken from the Registration Commission's bi-annual report. Non-whites (Negroes and others) in 1950 comprised 18 percent of the city's total population and 16.3 per cent of the registration.

In 1956 it had risen to 22.3 per cent and 18.8 per cent, and in 1958 23.4 per cent and 20.7.

Germantown's 22nd ward between 1950 and 1956 showed an increase of 4200 non-whites and a decrease of more than 2500 white voters.

Between the years of 1956 and 1958 the 22nd and 59th wards showed a continuing increase of non-whites on the registration rolls of 1300 and a decrease of 2600 white voters.

OTHER LOCALITIES

Besides the 22nd ward in Germantown there also are several other concentrations of colored residents. These are in the north section of Germantown and accounts for the total figure given.

The racial increase in Germantown between 1950 and 1956 is called by the Commission on Human Relations "filling in."

The area from Wister st. to Mt. Pleasant ave., between Germantown ave., and the Reading Railroad, has densities ranging from 15 per cent to 85 per cent with the average of non-whites at about 45 per cent.

Sole remaining area of change in the city is stated as the section north of LaSalle College on which no figures are given in respect to white and non-white.